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Approved For Release 2003/09/30 : CIA-RDP79B01709A000100060005-1

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CHANNELS

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 2030125X1  
NRO

THE JOINT STAFF

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file  
TAGBOARD

17 December 1970

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE HOLDERS OF SPECIAL OVERFLIGHT SUPPLEMENT

Subject: TAGBOARD Mission Resume (TS [ ])

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1. (TS [ ]) The D-21 (TAGBOARD) drone reconnaissance mission scheduled for December 1970 was executed on 17 December 1970. The drone launched from the B-52 mother-ship on schedule at 17/0004Z, and flew the programmed route over South China precisely as programmed. The recovery package ejected at the proper location on time at 17/0025Z. The C-130 recovery forces sighted the drone recovery package electronically and visually, and reported that the package was descending at a very high rate. Although in position above and below cloud cover, the recovery forces were unable to successfully catch the package as it passed through the clouds and impacted in the water.

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2. (TS [ ]) Initial indications are that the recovery package impacted with the water at a high rate, probably broke up and sank. The surface recovery ship in the projected recovery area did not sight the package, but will continue search operations jointly with the C-130 aircraft.

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3. (TS [ ]) Preliminary COMINT reflections indicate that the CHICOM air defense radars possibly tracked the drone during the most northern portion of its route for approximately seven minutes, beginning 45 minutes after launch.

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J. C. DONALDSON JR.  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Deputy Director for Operations  
(Recon & EW)

NRO and JCS review(s) completed.

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